

A large area at the rear of the facility holds the numerous caskets, urns and temporary containers Dover will need. The mortuary stocks only one type of wood and one type of metal casket, purchased from several manufacturers, as well as Jewish caskets and even oversized caskets, testament again to its dedication to meeting the needs of each unique case with the dignity, honor and respect that each fallen soldier has earned.

The average age of the 1,200 cases Dover's Port Mortuary staff handles each year is 25. Despite the horrors of war, and thanks to the dedication, commitment and expertise of this remarkable facility's full- and part-time employees, Dover returns these young loved ones to their grieving families in a state suitable for viewing 85 percent of the time. (Again, it is crucial to understand that "viewability" has a different meaning here versus that used in a typical funeral home. Sadly, in some cases, only the decedent's head is viewable but not the body, or vice versa.)

As I take my seat aboard our chartered bus and settle in for the two-hour return journey to Washington, D.C., I gaze at the now-illuminated landscape of Delaware through my window as the miles pass unnoticed, lost in thought, sensing the night chill through my shirt. I do not feel like idly chatting right now.

I wish every funeral service professional, every citizen, had the opportunity to experience firsthand the tour I still struggle to assimilate. Learning how each set of remains that arrives at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs is steadfastly treated as unique—as was each individual—and receives from a small group of amazing people the requisite time, attention and care their due moves me profoundly. Each is special. Each is one of a kind. Each—as well as everyone that grieves their death—is worthy of the mathematically exacting tender mercies and loyalty to high ideals each fallen soldier earned. Thanks to this facility and its staff, we—as a nation—bestow such on friend or foe alike.

I will never think of them as numbers again.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007. H.R. 3096 makes important contributions to the ongoing dialogue with our ally the Socialist Republic of Vietnam regarding the importance of the protection of human rights in Vietnam.

Vietnam, to further its role as a responsible member of the international community, must release individuals imprisoned for political and religious beliefs. The government, though its policies and actions, must display a greater respect for religious freedoms and the rights of minorities. Essential to achieving this goal is for Vietnam to allow individuals who seek such protections full access to U.S. sponsored refugee programs. Further, Vietnam must end any and all support its government officials provide for trafficking of humans. H.R. 3096 makes future non-humanitarian U.S. assistance to Vietnam conditional upon the President of the United States certifying to Con-

gress progress made by the government of Vietnam on these important matters.

I am concerned by reports the government of Vietnam blocks the Radio Free Asia programming. I fully support the provision in H.R. 3096 to authorize appropriate efforts be made to overcome such interference. I also fully support provisions in H.R. 3096 supporting the educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam to promote progress toward freedom and democracy.

The protection of the human rights in Vietnam is particularly important to me and the people of Guam. The fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975 displaced approximately three million Vietnamese. My late husband Ricardo J. Bordallo, then Governor of Guam, welcomed the 150,000 Vietnamese refugees who landed on Guam's shores in April 1975. I vividly remember how the Guam community came together in solidarity with the Vietnamese people and worked hard to help comfort these brave individuals who had left all their worldly possessions behind in the name of freedom.

The people of Guam empathized with the Vietnamese refugees, and we opened our hearts as well as our island to them. As First Lady, I organized care for the hundreds of orphan babies who arrived as a result of Operation Baby Lift. A poignant experience, this effort remains as one of my fondest memories of my husband's first term as Governor of Guam.

Vietnam today is a country that seeks peace with its neighbors, prosperity at home, and friendly relations with the United States. The provisions contained in H.R. 3096 will help towards achieving those ends.

CONGRATULATING PAYSON, ARIZONA, ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize and honor the Town of Payson, Arizona, which is in my district. This year Payson will be celebrating its 125th anniversary October 3rd through the 7th.

This beautiful mountain village community is known for its natural beauty and deep history. Surrounded by the rich ponderosa pine Tonto National Forest, Payson is located in Gila County at the base of the 7,000 foot, 200 mile long Mogollon Rim, which defines the southwestern edge of the Colorado Plateau. Seven Rim Lakes are located in the vicinity, offering a wide array of outdoor recreation for residents and tourists to enjoy.

In 1882 community leaders surveyed the current town site of Payson, originally calling the settlement Green Valley. The town changed its name after constructing its post office. In 1884 then postmaster, Frank C. Hise, renamed the town in honor of the congressional chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Road, Senator Louis Edward Payson, who was instrumental in establishing the post office.

Payson will forever be linked to the American Old West. It was in 1884 that the town held its first rodeo, holding it every year since,

earning the title of "World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo." Author Zane Grey, who idealized the ruggedness of the Old West, used Payson and its surrounding areas for the backdrop and inspiration for some of his literary works, including "Code of the West," "Under the Tonto Rim," and "To the Last Man."

It was not until 1973 that Payson was incorporated, and since then it has grown to become a thriving community that anchors the area known as "Rim Country." I would like to applaud Payson for all of its achievements, recognize its distinct history, and congratulate it on its 125th anniversary. This community serves as a beacon for all other burgeoning south Western communities to follow, and is home to a people of deep community spirit and fervent respect for their environment.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in light of the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, H.R. 3096, which was debated on the House Floor yesterday, September 17, 2007, and which passed overwhelmingly this afternoon, I would like to include in the record portions of the trial proceedings for Attorney Nguyen Van Dai and Attorney Le Thi Cong Nhan who are referenced in this legislation. Both individuals were ruthlessly seized by the Government of Vietnam on March 6, 2007, in Vietnam's most recent crackdown on democracy and human rights advocates. The accused each received years of imprisonment after being found guilty of "disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," I urge each and every one of my colleagues to read this chilling account of the Vietnamese justice system.

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM;
INDEPENDENCE—LIBERTY—HAPPINESS

THE PEOPLE'S COURT OF HANOI CITY

Preliminary criminal sentence, No. 153/2007/HSST, May 11, 2007. In the name of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, The People's Court of Hanoi City. The Preliminary Trial Committee is composed of:

Presiding Judge: Mr. Nguyen Huu Chinh. People's Jurors: 1. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Ha, 2. Mrs. Tran Hong Thuy. Court clerk/recorder: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Huyen, cadre of the People's Court of Hanoi City, Representative of The Hanoi City People's Office of Procuracy: 1. Mr. Dinh Trong Nghia, Procurator, 2. Mr. Dinh Quoc Thai, Procurator.

On May 11, 2007, the following defendants were preliminarily tried by the People's Court of Hanoi City under Criminal Docket No. 138/2007/HSST of April 24, 2007:

1. NGUYEN VAN DAI born 1969, in Da Trach, Khoai Chau District, Hung Yen Province; domiciled at Apartment 302, House Z8, Back Khoa Communal Building, Bach Khoa Ward, Hai Ba Trung Precinct, Ha Noi City; occupation at the time of committing crimes: Head Attorney of the Thien An Law Office; educational background: Grade 12/12; born of Mr. Nguyen Van Cap and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thom; married to Vu Minh Khanh; arrested and placed under temporary detention since March 6, 2007; is present at the trial.